

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A skull pin comprising:
 - a pin body; and
 - a pin tip formed from an insulating material, protruding from a proximal end of said pin body; wherein the protruding portion of said pin tip consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip, the curvature of which has having a spherical radius in the range of 0.025 to 0.075 mm.
2. (Original) The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said insulating material is a ceramic material.
3. (Original) The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said insulating material is an electrical insulator.
4. (Original) The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said pin body includes a bore for receiving said pin tip.
5. (Original) The skull pin of claim 1, wherein said pin tip includes a bore for receiving said pin body.
6. (Previously amended) The skull pin of claim 1, wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.
7. (Previously amended) A kit comprising:
 - a halo; and
 - a skull pin, wherein said skull pin comprises
 - a pin body, and
 - an insert formed from an insulating material, protruding from a distal end

of said pin body wherein the protruding portion of said insert consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip, having the curvature of which has a spherical radius in the range of 0.025 to 0.075 mm.

8. (Original) The kit of claim 7 wherein said insulating material is a ceramic.

9. (Previously amended) A kit comprising:

skull tongs; and

a skull pin, wherein said skull pin comprises

a pin body, and

an insert formed from an insulating material, protruding from a distal end

of said pin body wherein the protruding portion of said insert consists of a straight-sided portion and a tapered portion with a rounded tip having the curvature of which has a spherical radius in the range of 0.025 to 0.075 mm.

10. (Original) The kit of claim 9 wherein said insulating material is a ceramic.

11. (Previously added) The pin of claim 1 wherein said straight-sided portion is cylindrical.

12. (Previously added) The kit of claim 7 wherein said straight-sided portion is cylindrical.

13. (Previously added) The kit of claim 9 wherein said straight-sided portion is cylindrical.

14. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 7 wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.

15. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 9 wherein the tapered portion has an angle between 30° and 50°.

16. (Cancelled)